

**PRIMARY USE:** Reduction of pollutants of all kinds in stormwater runoff.  
**ADDITIONAL USES:** Improved appearance.

## PARKING LOT AND STREET CLEANING

**What is it?** A non-structural practice to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

### Purpose

Street cleaning can reduce pollutants in runoff if it is performed regularly. Another benefit of street cleaning is that pipes and outlets in detention structures and ponds are less likely to become clogged.



**Parking Lot and Street Cleaning Sweeper  
Side View**

### Limitations

Sweepers that use only brushes (wet or dry) tend to crush or pulverize larger-sized particles, creating fine particulate material. This material is not collected by the sweeper and is much more likely to be suspended in the stormwater and carried through the drainage system and eventually to the outfall. Larger-sized particles (sand and gravel-sized) will either be picked up by the sweeper or collected in the catch basin sump; these particles can be removed periodically. Disposal of street sweeping wastes may pose a problem because of possible high levels of lead, copper, zinc and other wastes from automobile traffic.

### Materials

Power street sweepers using dry or wet broom action and / or vacuum pickup.

### Installation

New street sweeping machines pick up much finer materials than older models, a feature designed to help reduce the transport of sediment-bound pollutants. Testing of street sweepings may be appropriate to determine appropriate disposal or reuse alternatives. Some municipalities and industries have found that street sweepings can be used as cover in sanitary landfills. Industries could be required to regularly sweep access roads, parking lots, truck aprons and loading dock areas. Homeowners should be educated not to use streets and curbs as disposal areas. Yard wastes and grass clippings can be disposed of in compost piles and the compost used around shrubs and in flower beds. Sweepers with high-powered vacuum systems have been found to be significantly more effective in collecting surface sediment and dirt while reducing the amount of fine particulate released. In general, all sweepers are ineffective in removing oil that has been spilled or dripped on the surface.